The Field Museum

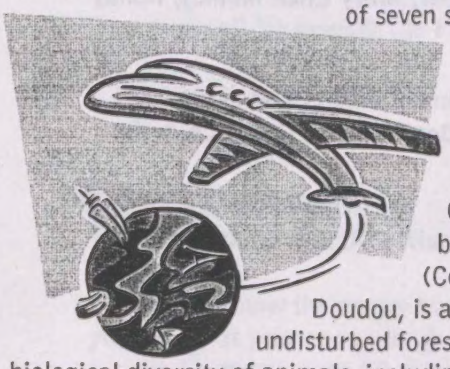
Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 16, 2000

Steve Goodman returns to the Field Museum

Last week Steve Goodman (Zoology) returned to Chicago after a nearly 10-month absence. Most of this period was spent in Madagascar conducting research and teaching at the Université d'Antananarivo. In August he traveled to Paris with several Malagasy students and colleagues to take part in a conference on the biogeography of Madagascar. Steve is the co-editor of the proceedings which will be published in July by the Société de Biogéographie de France.

Much of his spring and summer (our fall and winter) was spent with a relatively large group of zoologists and botanists in the forests of Madagascar conducting biological inventories in poorly known areas of the island. For several of these sites Dave Willard and then Tom Gnoske joined him to conduct bird studies. Between September and late December a total of seven sites were surveyed in different portions of the island. January found him back out in the forest.



After a brief repose at his home in Antananarivo, Steve assisted with a six week biological survey in Gabon, just north of the Congo border, that was organized by WWF (Central Africa). The site, called Mts. Doudou, is a very large block of largely undisturbed forest that still holds a remarkable biological diversity of animals, including large mammals (chimps, gorillas, duikers, leopards, pangolins, etc.). A total of three sites were inventoried on the mountain.

In late April Steve was in the states for a few days, largely to give the Earth Day presentation at the high school he graduated from, and then went back to Madagascar for May. He will be in Chicago for about six weeks and then will return to Madagascar towards the end of July to commence another field season in Madagascar and a planned two-month trip to the Central African Republic.

This summer he will be joined at The Field Museum by a colleague from the Université d'Antananarivo, Prof. Daniel Rakotondravony, and three students from the same institution that work closely with Steve, Voahangy Soarimalala, Rodin Rasoloarison, and Marie Jeanne Raherilalao. All of these folks will also be taking part in a course at Northwestern University with Anne Yoder on conservation biology and genetics.

FIELD NOTES

Week of June 19

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Human Resources Open House
- Tuesday, 4 to 6 p.m.

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Human Resources Office Closed
- Wednesday all day

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Museum Campus Operations Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m. at Chicago Park District Permits Office

Planned Power Outage
- Wednesday, 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Public/Campus Events

Downtown Thursday Nights
- Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m.

Lecture: The State of the Art
National New Plays Festival
- Saturday, 2 p.m.

Write early and often!

Submit stories and news items to Rodger Patience in the Development Department by Wednesday noon for each Friday's issue. E-mail is best at patience@fmnh.org.

MEMBERS' NIGHT

Very Happy Campers

Around 9:30 on Members' Night last Friday, I was walking in the parking lot at Soldier Field behind a family of four—a couple with two young kids—and carrying my briefcase and a bookbag full of manuscripts on the politics of friendship in New Guinea. The museum badge around my neck was flying gently in the breeze.

When she saw that I was behind them in the dark, Mom slowed down, dropped back, and then said with great warmth as I came near: "Thank you for doing this for us. This was just wonderful! You are so kind." My reply: "That's what we love to hear. See you again next year!"

Not the sort of exchange you hear every day after dark in a crowded parking lot in this great big city of ours!

Submitted by **John Terrell**

EDUCATION

Thanks to all for help with "Older Adults Day"

On Monday, June 5, the Education Department hosted the first "Older Adults Day." Amid the masses of general visitors waiting to sneak a peak at Sue and visit the Dead Sea Scrolls, we were able to accomodate over 950 pre-registered older adults with special programming and activities. There are many people to thank for making this day a success:

Education Volunteers: Christian Nuttel, Jean Vondriska, Leonore Levit, Sharleene Frank, Matthew Isoda, Laverna Evans;

Education Staff: Beth Crownover, Beth Adams, Eduarda Briseno, Takeesha Holmes, Heather Crews, Kathleen Donofrio, Connie Sulkin, Marget Van Horn, John Frazier, Mary Ellen Munley, Randy Strickland;

Members of the **Lifelong Learning Planning Group;**

Other Museum Staff: Tom Geary (Thanks again for all your help in obtaining those extra wheelchairs); Group Sales, AV, Housekeeping, Visitor Services, Protection Services, Graphics, and Museum Campus.

Submitted by **Lauren Niimi**

EXHIBITS

We are continuously improving...

With all the excitement around the recent opening of exhibitions such as **The Dead Sea Scrolls** and **Sue**, it is easy to lose track of the many other exhibition improvements that we've accomplished this year. Because these jobs, though small in scope, are so important to the visitor's experience of The Field Museum, I would like to thank the staff members responsible for their completion. By the end of this month, the completed list will include:

- Creation of the new Madagascar research mini exhibit
- Deinstallation and reinstallation of **Insects: 105 Years of Collecting**
- Completion of the new **Small Treasures Gallery**
- Relocation and relabeling of the coelacanth
- Replacement and remounting of specimens in Nature Walk
- Renovation of the lighting system in the Jade Hall
- Restoration and reinstallation of specimens in **Life Over Time**
- Relocation of Bushman

- Renovation of graphics in Hall 16 north
- Creation of new entrance graphics for **Life Over Time**
- Redesign and production of soft sea sculptures in **Life Over Time**
- Relocation and relabeling of dunkelosteous
- Creation of the cross-cultural "feast ware" exhibit near the Maori house
- Renovation of **Life Over Time** zoetropes
- Creation of new labeling for the McDonald's Fossil Preparation Lab
- Updating and production of new signage for the Searle Lounge
- Repair and reinstallation of the smashed beaver.

These projects—and many others—represent the team effort of the following staff members:

Elisa Aguilar, Cheryl Bardoe, John Bates, Theresa Biancheri, Abe Bloom, Ed Bogenski, John Bolt, Alex Branch, Paul Brunsvold, Michael Burns, Jean Cattell, Mara Cosillo-Starr, Corrie Coughlin, Beth Crownover, Nina Cummings, John Dalton, Kara Deniston, Brian Dettmer, Amanda Flood, John Flynn, Eric Frazer, Lou French, Steve Furnett, Pam Gaible, Rudy Garcia, Ashley Golden, Steve Goodman, Lance Grande, Matt Groves, Jonathan Haas, Larry Heaney, Bruce Heimbach, Eric Himes, Jim Holstein, Jaap Hoogstraten, Paula Horecny, Neil Keliher, Lance Kirsch, Emily Kolb, Steve Lalik, Ray Leo, Robert McLennan, Eric Manabat, Matt Matcuk, David Mendez, Matt Metzger, Francie Muraski-Stotz, Carter O'Brien, Rodger Patience, Bruce Patterson, Kent Peaslee, John Petreikis, Susan Phillips, Cassie Redhed, Alan Resetar, Olivier Rieppel, Mary Anne Rogers, Minh-Tho Schulenberg, Tom Schulenberg, Cap Sease, Bill Simpson, Christine Sinno, Tammy Smith, Bill Stanley, Dan Summers, Kevin Swagel, Christine Taylor, Mentee Teah, John Terrell, Donna Tocci, Michael Trombley, Dirk Urban, Constance VanBeek, Kara Verges, Hillary Verni, Steve Villano, Peter Wagner, Alaka Wali, Trigg Waller, Dave Willard, Lauren Was, Robert Weiglein, Ben Williams, John Zehren.

Thank you all for helping The Field Museum to continuously improve its exhibition programs.

Submitted by Sophia Shaw

HUMAN RESOURCES

Brown Bag Seminar.....
Moving in the Right Direction!

Do you know the proper body mechanics to use when bending down to fix an electrical outlet? Are you sitting at your computer in the proper way that eliminates all pain to your hands or wrists?

On Thursday, June 22, a representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be here for a 45 minute seminar on using better body mechanics on the job. You will learn stretches and exercises that you can use every day to prevent injury and decrease pain, as well as increase your awareness of ergonomics.

Please bring your lunch and join us for a very informative seminar from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on June 22 in Classroom B. Call the Human Resources department at ext. 7272 if you are interested in attending.

Submitted by Heather Friend

Human Resources Open House

Come one come all! All staff, volunteers and interns are invited to the first annual Human Resources Department Open House on Tuesday, June 20 from 4 to 6 pm. See our new office space, meet your HR staff members, and socialize with your colleagues. Food and drinks will be served.

The Human Resources Department is located on the Ground Level next to the North Elevator. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at ext. 7271. Hope to see you there!

Human Resources will be closed for a day

On Wednesday, June 21 the Human Resources Department will be closed for the day due to an HR staff retreat. The retreat will be off of the Museum premises and we will return to our normal hours on Thursday, June 22. Please be aware of this and pass this on to everyone in your department.

Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience. If you have any questions please call the Human Resources department at ext. 7271.

NATURAL NEWS

Two important changes

Beginning with this week's *Natural News*, you will notice a new format. We are stapling rather than folding the *Natural News* in an effort to produce it more efficiently using the new copy machines in the Print Shop. Producing the *Natural News* this way means less hand stuffing is necessary and will help ensure that we meet our target distribution of Friday morning.

We will be revisiting the quantity we print and distribute in order to ensure that everyone who would like a copy of the *Natural News* gets one. In the next few weeks, we will work with departments to get accurate counts for the weekly distribution.

One extremely important change

We will also, more importantly, be tightening up the weekly deadline for submissions to the *Natural News*. As it stands, the deadline for submissions for each Friday's issue is Wednesday at noon.

Beginning Wednesday, June 28, the weekly deadline will be strictly observed. **Anything submitted after Wednesday at noon will be held until the following week's issue.**

The *Natural News* is an important vehicle for communication across the whole Museum. Please help us help you by submitting your articles, photographs, flyers, and meeting announcements as early as possible. As always, e-mail submissions are best. Direct them to Rodger Patience in the Development Office at <patience@fmnh.org>.

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 OVERNIGHT TO THURSDAY, JUNE 22
11 P.M. TO 5 A.M.

Due to unpredicted transformer problems, ComEd has requested an unprogrammed outage on one of its transformers for the night of Wednesday, June 21, beginning at 11 p.m. This will require a six hour partial power shutdown of the west end of the east half of the building. Other scattered areas may experience outages as well. Extra engineering and security staff will be on hand.

All mission-critical equipment will switch to emergency power. A few-second long, building-wide dip in power will occur as mission-critical equipment is switched to emergency power at 11 p.m. Wednesday night and then back to regular power at 5 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Please turn off all computers and computer-based equipment before going home the evening of Wednesday, June 21.

Please direct any questions to Lou French, Manager of Facility Planning & Operations, at ext. 7380. Thanks.

MUSEUM CAMPUS-WIDE INFO MEETINGS

You are invited to attend the next Campus-Wide Info Meeting

Wednesday, June 28 or Friday June 30

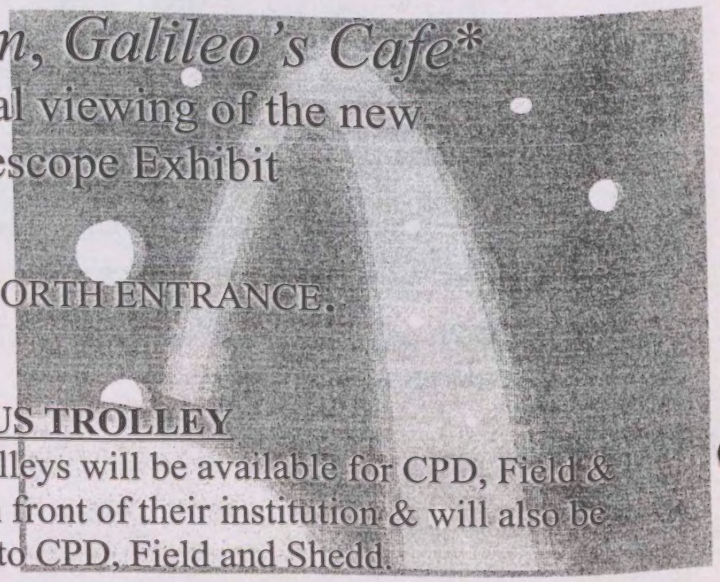
(Attend one of these sessions)

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

at

*The Adler Planetarium, Galileo's Cafe**

There will also be a special viewing of the new Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit



*Please enter via Adler's NORTH ENTRANCE.

MUSEUM CAMPUS TROLLEY

For your convenience, Museum Campus Trolleys will be available for CPD, Field & Shedd employees for pick-up at 7:20 a.m. in front of their institution & will also be available to return employees to CPD, Field and Shedd.